



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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PICK A POINT AND MAKE-A-MAP SAYS DEQ

(Baton Rouge) -- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) today became the first state environmental agency in the country to provide seamless high-resolution statewide digital orthoimagery map-making technology to the general public. The Make-A-Map web application provides access to historical geographic and environmental data sets from throughout the state and enables the public to obtain a visual understanding of their immediate surroundings.

Paul Zundel, Director of the GIS Center for the DEQ Information Technology Division said, "This technology gives people with different interests the ability to go online and create their own maps. If you are a private citizen interested in obtaining information about an area where a new facility is being proposed, Make-A-Map can provide a detailed view of this facility's proposed site." According to Zundel, the public will be able to access most DEQ data and relate it to a background map of numerous choices of imagery, as well as other data sets provided by federal, state and local government entities. An additional benefit of this application will allow individuals involved in recreational sports such as hunting, fishing and boating to be able to view and create maps for their areas of interest using the same choices of imagery and overlay these maps with information such as highways, roads, rivers, streams and other types of data that will make the maps they create more meaningful to each individual. Zundel also said that a command to create a map which in 1993 would take over 2 and ½ hours to process, the same request entered through the use of the Make-A-Map application will now take about 10 seconds.

(more)

The Make-A-Map application is the result of a combined effort by the LDEQ GIS Center Staff and members of the San Antonio Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) staff working under contract. Using the ESRI® Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software including, ArcGIS™ (the basic GIS software), ArcSDE™ (Spatial Data Engine) and ArcIMS™ (Internet Mapping Service) the Make-A-Map application creates, maintains and accesses data stored in an Oracle® database. The available data is a mix of DEQ internal data and other federal and state government agencies and includes raster and vector data layers. Raster layers include various satellite imagery mosaics of the State, aerial photography and USGS topographic maps. Some of the vector layer categories available for use are census/demographics, geographic boundaries, geology, hydrology, map indexes, vegetation, transportation, water bodies and others.

Future plans for the Make-A-Map application include providing access to the general public to most data used at DEQ. Additionally, the Make-A-Map application will provide access to future satellite imagery and aerial photography of the State.

DEQ's Geographical Information System has been in place since 1992. The GIS Center provides mapping support to all personnel within LDEQ. The Center also maintains and develops GIS data sets for agency mapping requirements. For further information on the Make-A-Map technology please visit map.ldeq.org/makeamap/jsp